

*Come, Grow, Share*

# *The Messenger*

3350 North Delany Rd  
Waukegan, IL 60087



## OUR STAFF

Rev. Jeffrey E. Koth  
*Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Willard Blomquist  
*Visitation*

Laura Swanson  
*Youth & Family Ministry*

Anne Illi-Love  
*Choir Director*

Victoria Berezchna  
*Organist*

Jill Shepherd  
*Stephen Ministry*  
847-989-1919

Kathy Anderson  
*Office Manager*

## CONTACTS

**Phone:** 847-623-5135

**Fax:** 847-623-4016

**E-mail:**

stmarkslutheran@gmail.com

**Website:** stmarkslutheran.us

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Come celebrate the gift  
of Jesus Christ.*

*Grow together in faith  
and love.*

*Share the Good  
News with all.*



## You Can Count On Me!

## Stewardship 2012

By Pastor Koth

Our Stewardship drive got off to an inspiring start in a combined worship service, November 20<sup>th</sup>. With the help of the children's choir, the drama team, a video devotion and sermon, a firm foundation of our theme, "You Can Count on Me" was laid, and our people responded! The membership moved throughout the sanctuary, reviewing the 17 ministry team displays, and made their pledge to serve. These pledges of service were noted by the posting of "gift bows" in the sanctuary windows. The white bows represent pledges from our men, red bows pledges from our women, and red/white bows those pledges from our youth [18 and under].

If you weren't able to be with us November 20<sup>th</sup>, there is still plenty of time to say, "You Can Count on Me!" The ministry team displays will remain open throughout this month, and your opportunity to respond will as well.

The monetary pledges will be received in the narthex. We are asking that as many members as possible make their pledge through Simply Giving [an automated electronic transfer of funds]. This is a safe, secure, reliable form of pledging offerings to the church. Since we are engaging in a building program, it is important that we have a firm commitment from our membership. Please note, that in order to know where we stand in our commitments, we ask that each member make a new pledge for fiscal 2012. Even though current Simply Giving contracts do NOT automatically expire at the end of the year, we do need to know your 2012 commitment. With the addition of a mortgage, we clearly need additional support over and above 2011 giving levels.

We hope that our sanctuary windows will be fully decorated in "gift bows" representing our continued commitment to St. Mark's ministries for our Christmas celebration this year.

Make a gift of yourself! Pledge your support through a gift of your time, your talent, and your treasures. Let everyone know, "**You Can Count on Me!**"

Merry Christmas! Blessed New Year!



12/01 Julea Reid  
 12/03 Eleanor Senteney  
 12/04 Giovanni Diaz  
 12/07 Linda Dietz  
 12/08 Jeremiah Meyer  
 12/10 Ella Chand  
 12/11 Mae Florio  
 12/12 Colleen Isabelle  
 12/13 Ira Fenton  
 12/13 Shannon Stelter  
 12/14 Kathryn Kottka  
 12/15 Nancy Inskeep  
 12/17 Zachary Ammons  
 12/19 Sue Broemelkamp  
 12/20 Rachel Sheppard  
 12/20 Lexi Burgett  
 12/22 Janice Thorstenson  
 12/22 Mark Taylor  
 12/23 Steven Myllymaki  
 12/25 Cynthia Keister  
 12/25 Sandra Falkinham  
 12/26 Ashley Perez  
 12/27 Anita Wells  
 12/27 Susan Baehr  
 12/27 Amy Weaver  
 12/27 Dinora Congdon  
 12/31 Daniel Reese  
 12/31 Mark Yocius

## Memorials

*We thank the people who have memorialized these friends and loved ones for their generosity.*



**The following gift was given in Loving Memory of:**

- ◆ Olga & Oliver Manninen from Eleanor M. Senteney
- ◆ Wesley & Esther Wienke from Al & Eleanore Wienke

## Thank You!

Thank you very much Pastor Blomquist and Pastor Koth for your prayers and visits and communion. Thank you friends from your prayers, visits, calls, and cards, when I was getting well from my accident and surgery.

Thank you very much!

Elisabeth Orna

If your name/s have not appeared in recognition of your birthday, wedding anniversary or a memorial gift, please contact the church office. We want to include all celebrations and memorials. 847-623-5135

## December Anniversaries

12/14 Rich & Karen Yocius  
 12/20 James & Robbyn McFadden  
 12/27 Jack & Sue Broemelkamp  
 12/27 Wayne & Kim Voss  
 12/30 Dave & Joyce Wonderland



## Mission of the Month - LSTC

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, is a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

LSTC strives to offer a community and academic experience that is grounded in the good news of the gospel and shaped by our urban, multicultural, ecumenical, global, interfaith and university-related context and commitments.

Our primary mission is to prepare women and men for a complex, pluralistic world in need of faithful and courageous ministers to serve in a variety of contexts. Although a large percentage of students come to LSTC to prepare for ordained or lay rostered ministries in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, LSTC is also enriched and transformed by ecumenical and interfaith students in our various masters and doctoral programs, as well as ecumenical and interfaith colleagues.

We seek to offer hospitality and welcome to all who enter LSTC's academic programs. Following Jesus Christ, whose reconciling love bridged barriers and made strangers friends, we seek to welcome and learn from one another's particularity - including but not limited to one another's race, national or ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, social status and theological diversity.

*Please remember our important seminary with a gift this month!*

## Help Wanted!

On December 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. we will be decorating the church for the holidays. Please give us your gift of help to set up the trees, decorate, and hang garlands to set the stage for the celebration of our Savior's birth.



## Help Us Decorate



Christmas  
2011  
Worship

### Christmas Eve

**Candlelight worship**  
4 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day

**Carol Service at 10 a.m.**

### New Year's Day

**Worship @ 10:00 a.m.**

## Stephen Ministry

<sup>18</sup>He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? <sup>19</sup>It is like a **mustard seed** that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." —Luke 13:18-19



I would like to share a beautiful Christmas story that speaks to how the holidays can often be difficult for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

### *"A Mustard Seed Christmas"*

Last year our first Christmas decoration was a mustard seed. A lowly mustard seed. Taped on a sheet of white paper to the centre of our mantelpiece. It was a sign and a symbol of the fragile and tiny hope I had of celebrating Christmas. The hope was fragile and it was tiny because I did not "feel" like Christmas last year. How could I sing the Lord's song in the strange land of Grief?

It was the first Sunday in Advent and my husband and I were having our usual leisurely coffee brunch after all the duties of the morning and the noon hour. Two church services and the important weekly phone calls to my father and other family members were behind us for another week. My husband, rather gingerly, brought up the subject of Christmas knowing that I was immersed in the full bloom of grief. Mom had died on La-

bor Day and this was the first Christmas to be marked without her. I did not "feel" like Christmas.

Despite my fog of misery, I knew that I was being somewhat self-absorbed in my pain. Life was going on all about me but, for the life of me, I couldn't figure out how I was going to get through this time. Everybody busy and happy and having parties and family gatherings. I shrank inside. The thought of smiling and pretending joy was beyond pain for me. What was I going to do?

I remembered the reading from Romans that morning, "The night is far gone, the day is near. . . . Let us put on the armor of light . . . put on the Lord Jesus Christ." The season celebrating His birth and looking for His coming again was upon me and I was being called to participate. But it was beyond me to rejoice. As I said these things to my husband, he reminded me that God IS able even if I was not. He mentioned the parable of the mustard seed to me. God could take that little mustard seed and make of it something worthy. God could take that tiny seed of faith and grow it into a kingdom of hope.

I felt as if I had been touched. I got up and went to the kitchen and rifled through my spices. Yes! There it was. My bottle of mustard seeds. I got one out and grabbed a piece of paper from the pad by our phone and taped that mustard seed to the centre. I returned to the dining room, waving the paper triumphantly. "I've got it! I've got it! I CAN cele-

*Continued on Page 5*

Continued from Page 4

brate this year." My husband said, "Here, let's put it up on the mantel. It'll be our first Christmas decoration." Up it went. Every time I looked at it, I was reminded of the hope it symbolized and the faith it embodied. I couldn't do it on my own. But God could. And God did!

The mustard seed became a powerful witness in our house last year. Many people asked about it and it became a growing joy to share what it meant. The mustard seed again graces our mantelpiece to symbolize Light in the darkness, hope in the face of grief and despair, and faith in the promises of God. **My prayer is that, in the midst of difficult times, you will find hope; that a mustard-seed Christmas may be yours.**

Charlene Elizabeth Fairchild

Whether the loss is death or divorce or a broken relationship, that pain is so much more acute at holiday time. Let us remember *with God's help*, we can count on God's gift of healing and peace.

From Dr. Kenneth Haugk, the founder of Stephen Ministries: "Let us celebrate the awesome privilege of being part of God's Christmas story." I say amen to that!

Peace be with you this Christmas season and always!

Jill Shepherd,  
Stephen Leader



## Children's Christmas Program

Will be presented  
Sunday, December  
18th, @ 10:00 a.m.



Children's Christmas Program

Please note that there will be only one worship service that Sunday at 10 a.m. Many of our ministry teams will be involved in this production including drama, worship and music, technology, and Youth and Family Ministry. We thank them all for their hard work in bringing this message of hope at Christmas time to all of us.

Rehearsals will be held during Sunday school. Dress Rehearsals will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 10th and December 17th.

## Poinsettia Orders

Order forms for Poinsettia plants to adorn the altar on Christmas Eve. are included in this issue of the Messenger. Orders must be received in the church office no later than Wednesday, December 7th. All plants will be red this year and can be ordered in 6" pot (\$11) , 7" pot (\$18) or 8" pot (\$25). Please return your order forms to the box marked "poinsettia orders" which is located on the counter in the Narthex.



## 7th Annual Finnish Celebration

*The St. Mark's Travel Club*  
will be will be having their

*7th Annual Finnish Celebration*

on Sunday, January 15, 2012  
with a luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

Tickets will be on sale  
mid-December.

\$15 for adults; \$7 for children  
and can be bought from  
*any Travel Club member.*

Or call to reserve your ticket from:

Judy Shales Reinier 847-682-9009  
Helen Ostman 847-244-6638

Mark **Finnish Celebration** on your  
calendar for **January 15th**, then  
join us for fun and enjoyment.

**Coats for Kids—Help Keep Them Warm**—The North Lake County Office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in conjunction with 13 local Lutheran Churches is sponsoring Coats for Kids 2011 to benefit the homeless children in North Lake County.



You can keep them warm by bringing a new child size winter coat and put it in the collection box in the Narthex through December 12th for distribution before Christmas.

### **WSM Bible Study**

Last month the topic was about Jesus teaching through parables. This month the session moves into the middle of Mark's Gospel. (Mark 6:30 -7:37). More will be revealed about who Jesus is in relationship to God. This session explores Jesus' power over hunger, storm, the demons and infirmity. The theme verse is taken from Mark 6:36, "How many loaves have you? Go and see."



*Women's Bible Study*

The study will meet on Friday, December 9th at Ida Dudleston's at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. If you have questions please call Ida at [847-336-5096](tel:847-336-5096).

## A TAPESTRY OF JOY AND WONDERS

Celebrating God's Creation at St. Mark's

*The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.*

*Psalm 65:12-13*

When we enter our foyer this year we will be greeted by a beautiful tapestry of God's joy and wonders on the beautiful tree *created* by Georgia Benson.

Georgia took on the challenge of portraying the hymn, *Joy to the World*, through her hand-crafted ornaments for the foyer tree.

How often do we take for granted the great beauty of God's creation? When we sing the words of *Joy to the World*, do we believe that heaven and nature **do sing**? Let us see with our eyes and our ears of our hearts **God's joy, love, and the wonders of all His creation.**

Following is a prayer from "Awakening to God's Earthkeeping"

*How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands! The heavens declare your glory; the arch of sky displays your handiwork. In your love You have given us the power to behold the beauty of your world robed in all its splendor.*

*The sun and the stars, the valleys and the hills, the rivers and lakes, all disclose your presence. The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome might. The beasts of the field and the birds of the air bespeak your wondrous will. In your goodness you have made us able to hear the music of the world. The voices of loved ones reveal to us that You are in our midst. A divine voice sings through all creation.*

*Help us, O Lord, to hear your voice more clearly!*

Thank you, Georgia, for helping us to see and hear the *hymn of God's creation*, calling out to us to feel God in our midst!



## PASTY SALE - JANUARY 2012

Over the years the Women of St. Mark's Pasty Sale project has provided great fellowship and service for all our members and friends. The pasty sale has given us a vehicle to address specific needs of others.

The following projects were supported through proceeds from last year's pasty sale:

### INREACH

- Special Families in Need
- WSM's Prayer Retreat

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- C.O.O.L. Transitional Housing Program
- Bethel New Life Mission

### WORLD OUTREACH

- Women of the ELCA Funds for Lutheran World Relief
- ELCA – Good Gifts

### WORKERS ARE NEEDED IN JANUARY 2012

#### To continue the project, we need you!

Men, women, confirmands, high school students and friends of St. Mark's... anyone who would be willing to help in service and fellowship.

#### Volunteers are needed to:

- SERVE LUNCH to the workers
- PEEL & CHOP vegetables
- ROLL & FILL crusts
- CLEAN UP

We will find a job for you for whatever time you can share.

**SIGN UP BEGINNING SUNDAY,  
January 8, 2012 in the Narthex**

**Work Schedule: Thursday, January 26, 2012  
Friday, January 27, 2012  
Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Please make a **COMMITMENT** to help us continue the great pasty tradition at St. Mark's.

Without **WORKERS**, **PASTIES** cannot be baked, **ORDERS** cannot be filled, **FRIENDSHIPS** cannot begin and **MISSION GOALS** cannot be met.

### ORDER INFORMATION

We will stop taking pasty orders when we reach 1200. Orders are usually filled within the first week, so act quickly. **THERE WILL BE NO WAITING LIST.**

Order forms will be on the information table in the Narthex and downstairs on the tables in front of the mailboxes.

Paper Orders > starting **Sunday, January 8**, place your completed order form in the designated "PASTY ORDERS" box in the Narthex."

Phone Orders > call our office manager no earlier than **9am** on Monday, January 9. In fairness to everyone, please do not call before that time.

### PRICE INFORMATION

The cost of a pasty will remain \$5.50.

*In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*

### WHAT IS A PASTY??

It is a meat pie, a blend of beef & pork & potatoes & onions & carrots. The mixture is placed in a crust ... the crust is folded over, sealed and baked. **DELICIOUS** ... once you've tasted one, you can't wait until the next sale.





## Christmas Craft Party



**You're invited to the Youth & Family Ministry's 1<sup>st</sup> annual Christmas craft party!!! Bring your Christmas craft projects and have some un-interrupted time to finish those projects while you enjoy fellowship with your church family!**

**Or**

**Come learn a new craft, make a mini-scrapbook or an ornament for your Christmas tree.**

**All ages welcome!!**

**Refreshments will be served**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm**

**Questions call: Laura @ 224-619-7758**

### **St. Mark's Travelers Club**

Upcoming Trips:

- Dec. 7-9      Louisville KaLightscope  
                  -Christmas in Louisville
- Dec. 10      Donny & Marie Christmas in Chicago
- Jan 26, 2012    Gypsy at Drury Lane Dinner Theater
- Feb 5-11      New Orleans Winter Escape

Contact Judy Shales-Reinier at 847-682-9009 for more trip details and/or reservations.



# December 2011



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	5 Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Confirmation 7pm WSM Board Mtg 7 pm Cambridge HSA 6:30—8 p.m.	6 A.A. 7 pm Reflections of the Spirit 7 pm	7 Reflections in the Word 7 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm A.A. 7 pm	8 Boy Scouts 7 pm Choir 7 pm	9 WSM Bible Study at Ida Dudleston's 10 am and 5:30 pm	10 Men's Prayer Mtg (Avalon) 8 am  COOL Christmas Party 1—3 pm
11 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Travelers Luncheon Youth & Family Christmas Crafting 3—6 pm	12 Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm	13 Reflections of the Season Noon Church Council 7 pm A.A. 7 pm	14 Reflections in the Word 7 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm A.A. 7 pm	15 Gurnee Meadows Worship 1 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Choir 7 pm Travelers Club 6 pm	16  Boy Scouts Lock In 6:00 pm	17  Boy Scouts Lock In 9:00 am
18 10:00 am Worship Children's Christmas Program	19 Knitting for the Needy 7 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NO Confirmation	20 Technology 7 pm BSA Troop 55 7 pm A.A. 7 pm	21 A.A. 7 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 4 pm Candlelight Service 11 pm
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 a.m. Carol Service  PADS	26 Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NO Confirmation	27 A.A. 7 pm	28 A.A. 7 pm	29	30	31



**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
3350 North Delany Rd.  
Waukegan, IL. 60087

Phone 847-623-5135  
Fax 847-623-4016  
E-mail [stmarkslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkslutheran@gmail.com)



*Worship  
Sunday  
9:00 am  
10:30 am*

## Serving Us This Month

### Lectors

<b>Sundays 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
12/04 Lucille Tolonen	Jack Broemelkamp
12/11 Kristen Trukova	Ken Swanson
12/18 10 a.m. Combined	Pastor Koth
12/24 10 a.m. Combined	Pastor Koth

### Offering Counters

12/04	Wayne Voss & Erin Lundtveit
12/11	Erv Uhlman & Laura Swanson
12/18	Wayne Voss & Al Dudleston
12/25	Don Fontana & Al Dudleston

### Assisting Minister

John Meyer(1 & 3rd Sundays)

### Deacon

Jill Shepherd (2 & 4 Sundays)

### Altar Guild

Mae Smith and Loren & Margaret Congden

### Ushers

Mario Garza & Lise Myllymaki

### Communion Assistant Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

Genie Duran

### Acolyte

<b>Sundays 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
12/04 Zachary Ammons	Danyel Sparesus
12/11 Mathew Hopkins	Annika Swanson
12/18 10 a.m. Combined	Lexi Burgett
12/24 4 p.m. Christmas Eve	Abigail Oye
12/24 11 pm Christmas Eve	Chantel Brikha
12/25 10 a.m. Combined	Nick Fontana

### Projectionists

<b>Sundays 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
12/04 Dan Nicklas	Leanna Goble
12/11 Erin Hopkins	Magnus Swanson
12/18 10 a.m. Combined	Giovanni Diaz
12/24 4 p.m. Christmas Eve	Matthew Oye
12/24 11 pm Christmas Eve	Monique Brikha
12/25 10 a.m. Combined	Anna Koth

THE MESSENGER  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
3350 North Delany Rd.  
Waukegan, IL. 60087-1343

stamp

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE